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Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 NEA-10
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DRAFTED BY S/PRS: JMORDWAY
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FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT:TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, THURSDAY MORNING, FEB 17
NO. 11
NEWSPAPERS

LOS ANGELES TIMES

STORY ON PAGE 14. HEADLINE: "VANCE URGES PLANNING FOR
MIDEAST TALKS BY LAST HALF OF '77; ISRAELIS SKEPTICAL"

OSWALD JOHNSTON FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE WEDNESDAY URGED
ISRAEL TO PLAN FOR A GENEVA CONFERENCE ON A MIDDLE EAST
PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR. BUT THE
ISRAELI LEADERSHIP TOLD VANCE IT MAY NEVER OCCUR.

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OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE TOLD IN VARIETY OF WAYS ISRAELI RELUCTANCE TO
DEAL WITH PLO.

-- RABIN SAYS THERE WILL BE NO "ARAFAT STATE" ON WEST

BANK.

ON THOSE TERMS, RABIN EMPHASIZED, "CHANCES FOR A GENEVA

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CONFERENCE IN 1977 ARE DOUBTFUL AT BEST."

-- PLO PARTICIPATION ACCEPTABLE ONLY AS PART OF JORDANIAN DELEGATION, AND THEN ONLY IF PICKED BY HUSSEIN AND INCLUDING ONLY REPENTENT PLO MEMBERS.

-- VANCE VISIT HAS HARDENED LONG-STANDING ISRAELI POSITIONS

-- VANCE SEEMED UNFAZED BY IT ALL. ACCORDING TO HIS OWN SPOKESMAN, HODDING CARTER, HE SPENT THE DAY LISTENING, OCCASIONALLY ASKING CLARIFYING QUESTIONS.

-- ISRAELIS, "UNUSUALLY CAREFUL TO PROVIDE REPORTERS AN ACCOUNT OF THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES, GAVE A PARALLEL REPORT." VANCE WANTED CLARIFICATION ON SECURITY GUARANTEES AND A SETTLEMENT BASED ON "DEFENSIBLE BORDERS."

-- VANCE PRAISED ISRAELI FLEXIBILITY, BUT FOUND HIMSELF CONTRADICTED ON SOME POINTS BY ALLON, SUCH AS USSR'S ROLE.

-- ISRAELI OFFICIALS PASSED WORD PRIVATELY THAT VANCE HEARD ABOUT ISRAELI ANNOYANCE WITH SEVERAL RECENT US ACTIONS, SUCH AS KFIR AND CBU'S.

-- VANCE RAISED OIL EXPLORATIONS IN GULF OF SUEZ.
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-- "IN THE VIEW OF ONE ISRAELI OFFICIAL, SPEAKING PRIVATELY BUT WITH HIGHEST AUTHORITY, THE US-ISRAELI QUASI-ALLIANCE IS LIKELY TO SURVIVE IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION -- AND ISRAEL IN THE END PROBABLY WILL MAKE SOME OF THE CONCESSIONS WASHINGTON WANTS TO GET PEACE TALKS UNDER WAY BUT ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS."

-- US MUST RECOGNIZE "OVERRIDING ISSUE OF ISRAELI SECURITY" AND MUST BE PREPARED TO KEEP WEAPONS COMING AND GIVE ISRAEL POLITICAL SUPPORT ON "SUCH GUT ISSUES AS THE PALESTINIANS."

-- VANCE SEEMED TO BE WILLING TO HELP ON PLO ISSUE, "OR AT LEAST RESTATE THE STANDING US POLICY ... IN WORDS CALCULATED TO LEND ISRAEL SOME COMFORT." BUT VANCE STOPPED SHORT OF A FLAT REQUIREMENT THAT THE PLO REVISE THEIR CHARTER, AS ISRAELIS DEMAND.

-- VANCE ALSO OFFERED NO COMFORT ON KFIR OR CBU ISSUES.

-- VANCE GOES NOW TO CAIRO TO HEAR A RADICALLY DIFFERENT VERSION OF THE MIDEAST STALEMATE. "WHETHER HIS CURRENT OPTIMISM ABOUT A GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS YEAR SURVIVES MANY MORE DAYS IS AN OPEN QUESTION."

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BOSTON GLOBE

STORY ON PAGE 17, WITH PICTURE OF VANCE AT YEAD VASHEM.
HEADLINE: "VANCE GETS SIDETRACKED"

BILL BEECHER FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE, IN ISRAEL ON A FACT-FINDING MISSION AIMED AT GETTING PEACE TALKS GOING, WAS CONFRONTED WITH A NUMBER OF UNRELATED ISRAELI RE-
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QUESTS AND MADE ONE HIMSELF."

OTHER POINTS:

-- "ACCORDING TO WELL-PLACED SOURCES" ISRAEL ASKED FOR DOLLARS 215 MORE IN MILITARY AID TO PAY FOR WEAPONS ALREADY APPROVED.

-- ISRAEL ASKED VANCE TO USE INFLUENCE TO REVERSE KFIR DECISION AND GET CBU'S APPROVED.

-- VANCE ASKED ISRAEL TO ALLOW AMOCO TO RESUME DRILLING.

-- BOTH SIDES WERE NONCOMMITAL, BUT AGREED TO STUDY ISSUES.

-- VANCE TOLD KFIR DECISION THREATENED VIABILITY OF ISRAELI AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY, AND PURCHASE PRICE ALREADY DEPOSITED IN US BANK. DEADLINE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF MONEY POSTPONED BY ECUADOR.

-- CBU DECISION MORE IMPORTANT FOR PRINCIPLE THAN MILI-
TARY IMPLICATIONS, AND AMERICAN CREDIBILITY WOULD BE DAMAGED BY BREAKING A PRESIDENT'S PROMISE.

-- ON PEACE TALKS, VANCE ASKED THE ISRAELIS IF THEY WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF PLO IF THEY REVISED THEIR CHARTER. ISRAELIS SAID THAT WOULD SEEM TO MEET THEIR BASIC OBJECTION, BUT THEY RESERVED RIGHT TO STUDY THE MANNER OF CHARTER REVISION BEFORE COMMITTING THEM-
SELVES.

-- ISRAEL SAID THAT AS LONG AS PLO NOT REPRESENTED, THEY'RE WILLING TO GO TO GENEVA TO DISCUSS AGENDA FOR FULL-FLEDGED CONF. THEY OBJECTED TO A SINGLE ARAB DELE-
GATION, EVEN WITHOUT PLO, PREFERRING TO DEAL WITH BI-
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LATERAL ISSUES WITH COUNTRIES INVOLVED.

-- VANCE TOLD ISRAELIS GENEVA NOT A "SACRED FRAMEWORK" IF SOME OTHER APPROACH COULD BE WORKED OUT WITH ALL SIDES.

-- VANCE INVITED RABIN TO VISIT NEXT MONTH.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

STORY ON PAGE 2. HEADLINE: "ISRAELIS TELL VANCE PLO BARRIER TO TALKS"

JOHN MACLEAN FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE TOLD ISRAELI LEADERS WEDNESDAY THE UNITED STATES WANTS THEM AT THE PEACE TABLE IN GENEVA BEFORE THE YEAR IS OUT, BUT THE ISRAELIS RESPONDED THEY WILL NEVER GO IF THE PLO HAS A SEAT, TOO."

OTHER POINTS:

-- A FULL DAY OF TALKS BROUGHT VANCE NO CLOSER TO A SOLUTION, BUT DID LET HIM HEAR ISRAELIS OUT ON MANY ISSUES.

-- BOTH SIDES DESCRIBED TALKS IN POSITIVE TERMS.

-- PERES COMMENTS QUOTED. MANY BELIEVE PERES ENDORSED BY US, THEORY BEING THAT US FINDS RABIN INDECISIVE AND PERES CAN GET CONSERVATIVE SUPPORT FOR PEACE TALKS.

-- RABIN DETECTS NO MODERATION IN PLO.

-- ISRAEL SUGGESTS PALESTINIANS FORM PART OF A JORDANIAN DELEGATION.
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-- RABIN ACCEPTED INVITATION TO US, BUT NO DATE SET. US SPOKESMAN INDICATED "RABIN WANTS TO GO TO THE US QUICKLY TO SHORE UP HIS ERODING POLITICAL BASE BEFORE THE MAY ELECTION."

-- AMERICAN SPOKESMAN SAID HALF THE TALKS DEVOTED TO BI-

LATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING CBU'S.

-- ISRAELIS TOLD VANCE THEY WERE ASTONISHED US WOULD CRITCIZE ISRAELI OIL EXPLORATIONS IN SUEZ ON EVE OF TRIP.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

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STORY ON PAGE 15. HEADLINE: "CARTER'S MIDEAST STRATEGY GETS SLOW START DURING VANCE'S TWO-DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL"

ROBERT KEATLEY FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S MIDEAST DIPLOMACY GOT OFF TO A SLOW AND NOT PARTICULARLY PROMISING START DURING A TWO-DAY STOP HERE BY SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- FEW NEW IDEAS WERE STATED ON HOW TO BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARABS AS VANCE LISTENED RATHER THAN OFFERED NEW APPROACHES.

-- WHILE NOTHING MAJOR WAS EXPECTED, ISRAELI GOVT UNABLE TO RETHINK NEGOTIATING POSITION DUE TO ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

-- TRIP IS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR VANCE. ONLY AFTER TRIP AND THE VISITS TO WASHINGTON WILL HE HAVE NEW PLANS.

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-- "THE ISRAELI EXPERIENCE HASN'T ENCOURAGED THE AMERICAN TRAVELING PARTY ABOUT PEACE PROSPECTS." ISRAEL STILL REFUSES TO NEGOTIATE WITH PLO IN ANY FORM.

-- ISRAEL ALSO OPPOSES A PALESTINIAN STATE AND RETURN OF ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

-- VANCE SAID HE FOUND "FLEXIBILITY," BUT DIDN'T DEFINE IT.

-- ISRAEL READY TO GO TO GENEVA WITHOUT PLO, BUT PREFERS STEP-BY-STEP.

-- ALLON NOTED CARTER CAMPAIGN PROMISES ON NEVER FORCING ISRAEL TO MAKE DETRIMENTAL TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS.

-- UNLESS ISRAEL ACCEPTS DMZ'S OR OTHER SECURITY AR-RANGEMENTS ALONG 1967 LINES, OR ARABS STOP DEMANDING WITHDRAWAL, NO PEACE AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE.

-- ISRAEL WILL DEAL WITH PLO ONLY IF CHARTER IS CHANGED, AND VANCE APPEARED TO ENDORSE THAT VIEW AT PRESS CONF, "A MOVE THAT MIGHT GIVE HIM A FROSTY RECEPTION IN ARAB CAPITALS."

-- NEXT STOP IS CAIRO, AND SADAT, UNDER PRESSURE TO SHOW ECONOMIC RESULTS, MAY CHOOSE NOT TO BE FLEXIBLE.

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-- "THE MAIN RESULT OF THIS VISIT SEEMS TO BE THAT OF GIVING MR. VANCE A FIRST-HAND EDUCATION ABOUT THE COMPLEXITIES AND EMOTIONALISM OF ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTES. THE NEXT FEW DAYS SEEM UNLIKELY TO PRODUCE SPECIFIC PROGRESS TOWARD THE SETTLEMENT HE SEEKS."

-- NONE OF THE AMERICANS EXPECT THE BASIC ISSUES TO BE SOLVED THIS YEAR EVEN IF THE GENEVA CONF IS RECONVENED.
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BALTIMORE SUN

PAGE 1 STORY, WITH PICTURE OF VANCE AND MEIR. HEADLINE: "ISRAEL TELLS VANCE IT WILL TALK -- BUT NOT TO PLO"

HENRY TREWHITT FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: ISRAEL OFFERED YESTERDAY TO REOPEN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING ARAB GOVERNMENTS AT ALMOST ANY LEVEL AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE PLO."

OTHER POINTS:

-- ALLON "HINTED" PLO MEMBERS MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE AS PART OF A JORDANIAN DELEGATION.

-- VANCE AVOIDED MAKING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS, BUT ISRAELI SOURCES SAID HIS QUESTIONS INDICATED AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT.

-- US ENTHUSIASM FOR GENEVA GREATER THAN ISRAEL'S.

-- VANCE REAFFIRMED SAME CONDITIONS AS ISRAEL REGARDING PLO, BUT ALLON SUGGESTED PRE-GENEVA MEETINGS, INCLUDING ONE TO ARRANGE FOR PALESTINIANS IN JORDANIAN DELEGATION.

-- ON PLO CHARTER ISSUE, VANCE AIDES SAID A CHANGE IN CHARTER HAS BEEN AN IMPLIED REQUIREMENT OF THE PREVIOUS AMERICAN POSITION.

-- WITH NO IMMEDIATE, CRITICAL CONTROVERSY, ISRAELIS WERE COMPARING VANCE WITH KISSINGER. VANCE FOUND MORE OPEN AND RELAXED. "THAT ALSO WAS THE JUDGMENT OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS WHO HAVE WORKED FOR BOTH SECRETARIES. MR. VANCE IS A DELIGHT TO WORK FOR, ONE SAID, IN CONTRAST TO
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MR. KISSINGER'S REIGN OF TERROR WITH HIS STAFF."

-- VANCE'S AMIABILITY SHAKEN ONLY WHEN DISCUSSING YAD

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VASHEM VISIT.

-- MOST OF DAY'S DISCUSSIONS DEALT WITH "GENEVA CONFERENCE THEME."

-- ISRAEL APPREHENSIVE ABOUT GENEVA, SINCE IT WILL MEAN A UNITED ARAB FRONT. BUT ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT "RECANTED" PLO MEMBERS IN OTHER DELEGATIONS "PRESUMABLY EASED THE PRESSURE FOR THE MOMENT" AND GAVE VANCE SOME ISRAELI FLEXIBILITY TO PRESENT TO SADAT.

NEW YORK TIMES

PAGE 1 STORY. HEADLINE: "VANCE OPPOSES A SEAT FOR PLO AT TALKS UNLESS IT ACCEPTS ISRAEL"

BERNARD GWERTZMAN FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE SAID TODAY THAT UNTIL THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION REVISED ITS NATIONAL CHARTER TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST IT HAD NO BASIS FOR PARTICIPATION IN A CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST."

OTHER POINTS:

-- AT NEWS CONF, VANCE HOPED FOR RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONF IN SECOND HALF OF YEAR.

-- PALESTINIAN ISSUE DOMINATED TALKS. VANCE IS "SIGNALLING" PLO COUNCIL FOR CHANGE OF POSITION ON ISRAEL.

-- FIRST TIME US HAS CALLED FOR CHANGE IN PLO'S CHARTER.
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-- "ALTHOUGH MR. VANCE SEEMED TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO ALIGN THE US WITH ISRAEL ON THE ISSUE, THERE WERE NUANCES OF DIFFERENCES." VANCE HOPED FOR FLEXIBILITY AMONG ARABS AND A ROLE FOR USSR; ALLON SAW NO FLEXIBILITY AND CASTIGATED RUSSIANS.

-- VANCE DID NOT EXPECT ANY CHANGE IN ISRAELI POSITION AT TIME OF LEADERSHIP BATTLE.

-- HALF TIME DEVOTED TO SETTLEMENT OUTLOOK; HALF TO AID REQUESTS.

-- VANCE INSISTED NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON CBU'S. "THE IMPRESSION IS THAT MR. VANCE'S RECOMMENDATION WAS AGAINST GIVING THE WEAPONS TO ISRAEL FOR FEAR OF CAUSING UNDUE ALARM IN THE ARAB WORLD."

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-- QUOTED RABIN ON GENEVA RECONVENING, ARAB "MODERATION".

-- ALLON SAID TO HAVE TOLD VANCE ONLY PALESTINIANS ACCEPTABLE AT CONFERENCE WOULD BE THOSE PARTICIPATING IN JORDANIAN DELEGATION.

-- "MR. VANCE'S VISIT HAS LACKED THE SENSE OF DRAMA THAT SURROUNDED HENRY A. KISSINGER'S TRIPS. SECURITY IS LESS TIGHT AT THE KING DAVID HOTEL, WHERE THE AMERICAN PARTY IS STAYING, AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO PICKETS OPPOSING AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC INVOLVEMENT."

WASHINGTON POST

STORY ON PAGE 31, WITH PICTURE. HEADLINE: "VANCE SEES 'FLEXIBILITY' IN ATTITUDE OF ISRAELIS"

DON OBERDORFER FROM JERUSALEM
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LEAD: AFTER A LONG DAY OF LISTENING TO ISRAEL'S UN-CHANGED POSITION ON THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE SAID TONIGHT HE IS STILL AIMING FOR THE CONVENING OF A NEW GENEVA CON-FERENCE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR.

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE MADE LITTLE COMMENT ON WELL-KNOWN ISRAELI POSITIONS, PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY.

-- VANCE SAID HE FOUND "FLEXIBILITY"; ISRAELI SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS "NOTHING NEW."

-- VANCE HINTED AT STIFFENING OF US ATTITUDE ON PLO BY MENTIONING PLO'S COVENANT.

-- RABIN INVITED TO WASHINGTON. PERES DOESN'T OBJECT.

-- ALLON SAYS US SHOULD NEVER ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE SET-TLEMENT ON ISRAEL.

-- KFIR AND CBU ISSUES DISCUSSED. ISRAEL MORE WORRIED ABOUT KFIRS.

-- VANCE ASKED TO DISCUSS WITH SYRIA AND LEBANON PERMA-NENT ARRANGEMENT TO DEFUSE TENSION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

-- PERES ASKED VANCE TO DISCUSS WITH ARABS MUTUAL MEASURES AGAINST SURPRISE ATTACKS, ACCORDING TO SOURCES.

WIRES

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BARRY SCHWEID FROM CAIRO

LEAD: SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE FLEW TO CAIRO TODAY, THE SECOND STOP ON HIS MIDDLE EAST TOUR, AND PRAISED EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT AS A 'MAN OF VISION, A STATESMAN AND A LEADER.'"

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE MET WITH FAHMY, BUT NO STATEMENT MADE.

-- FAHMY HAD MET WITH ARAFAT BEFORE TALKS WITH VANCE. ARAFAT LEFT FOR SAUDI ARABIA.

-- QUOTED FROM ARRIVAL STATEMENT.

-- VANCE TOLD REPORTERS THAT DURING HIS STOP IN JERUSALEM HE FOUND "FLEXIBILITY" AMONG ISRAEL'S LEADERS THAT "THAT WAS ENCOURAGING."

UPI

JIM ANDERSON FROM CAIRO

LEAD: SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE TODAY HELD TWO HOURS OF TALKS WITH EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ISMAIL FAHMI ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF RENEWED MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGO-

ATIATIONS THIS YEAR."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE FOUND EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS IN BROAD AGREEMENT THAT CONF SHOULD BE HELD THIS YEAR, BUT THERE IS DISA-GREEMENT ON FORM, TIME AND PARTICIPANTS.

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-- BEFORE VANCE ARRIVED, FAHMI MET WITH ARAFAT, A MEETING PLO OFFICIALS INSISTED WAS NOT RELATED TO VANCE'S MIS-SION.

-- QUOTED FROM ARRIVAL STATEMENT.

-- ACCORDING TO ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS, APPARENT

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DISAGREEMENTS VANCE HAS FOUND INCLUDE TIMING OF PEACE CONF, FORM OF TALKS AND PLO PARTICIPATION.

-- ARAFAT'S AL FATAH SAID IT HASN'T GIVEN UP GOAL OF SETTING UP SECULAR STATE IN PLACE OF ISRAEL.

-- "POLITICAL SOURCES" NOTED THAT ARAFAT IS A MODERATE AND MAY HAVE TAKEN HARDLINE PUBLIC STAND TO KEEP SUPPORT AMONG FOLLOWERS.

-- AMERICAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAID WEDNESDAY THEY ENVISION A "GENEVA-TYPE" CONFERENCE OF LOOSELY DEFINED BARGAINING SESSIONS --POSSIBLE ONLY INVOLVING TWO COUNTRIES AT A TIME -- WITH THE US AS MEDIATOR. RABIN SAID FIRST CONF SHOULD BE THIS YEAR AND ONE ISRAELI OFFICIAL SAID MOST LIKELY COUNTRY WAS SYRIA.

-- THESE TALKS WOULD ALMOST BE A VARIATION OF KISSINGER'S SHUTTLES.

REUTERS

NO BYLINE, FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON, IN THE PRESENCE OF US SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE, DELIVERED A STINGING ATTACK AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION'S ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE MOVES.

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OTHER POINTS:

-- THIS REMARK IN MARKED CONTRAST TO RECENT VANCE COMMENTS.

-- VANCE WAS QUOTED IN SYRIAN PAPERS AS SAYING USSR HAD A PROMINENT ROLE TO PLAY IN MIDEAST PEACE CONF AND HE WOULD DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF TRIP WITH SOVIETS.

-- QUOTED BREZHNEV'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO ARAFAT.

-- ALLON ATTACKED ARAB STATES FOR LACK OF FLEXIBILITY.

STILL NO WALLACH. HEARST ADVISES THAT STORY RAN TODAY BUT THEY ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE COPY.

RADIO/TV

BARRIE DUNSMORE, ABC-TV "GOOD MORNING AMERICA" FROM CAIRO: SECRETARY VANCE HAS ARRIVED HERE IN CAIRO WHERE HE BEGINS THE ARAB PART OF HIS MIDDLE EAST FACT-FINDING TOUR.

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JUST AS EGYPT'S PRESIDENT SADAT WAS A KEY TO THE BREAK-THROUGHS WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT THE AGREEMENT DURING KISSINGER'S PERIOD OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY, SO IS SADAT IMPORTANT IN THIS STAGE. DURING HIS TALKS IN ISRAEL, VANCE WAS NOT GIVEN ANY INDICATION THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE SOFTENED THEIR POSITION ON THE PLO. NEITHER, FOR THAT MATTER, HAS THE U.S., WITH BOTH SIDES HOLDING TO THE VIEW THAT THE PLO MUST ACCEPT THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST.

IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL THAT, IF THERE IS TO BE ANY MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATONS, THERE WILL HAVE TO BE SOME MEASURABLE MODERATION OF THE PLO'S POSITION. SADAT IS IMPORTANT TO THIS EFFORT, AND JUST BEFORE HE MET WITH VANCE TODAY, EGYPT'S FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI HAD AN UNCLASSIFIED

EXTENSIVE MEETING WITH PLO CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT.

RICHARD VALERIANI, NBC-TV "TODAY" FROM ISRAEL:
DURING A LONG WORKING LUNCH, THE ISRAELIS TOLD VANCE AND HIS AIDES WHY THEY REFUSED TO DEAL WITH THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, AND WHY THEY OBJECT TO THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE ON THEIR BORDER. VANCE ASKED FOR SOME CLARIFICATION, BUT OFFERED NO PROPOSALS OF HIS OWN. HE DID INVITE RABIN TO WASHINGTON NEXT MONTH, AND RABIN ACCEPTED. AFTERWARD, THE TWO MEN WERE ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY CHANGE IN THE POLICY TOWARD THE PLO.

RABIN: THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE. NO.
QUESTION: HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE UNITED STATES --
VANCE: THE ANSWER IS NO.

VALERIANI: THE REST OF VANCE'S SCHEDULE WAS PACKED WITH CEREMONY -- A COURTESY ON PRESIDENT KATZIR, A CHAT WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER GOLDA MEIR, WHO STILL EXERCISES A LOT OF INFLUENCE IN GOVERNMENT COUNCILS, AND A MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER SHIMON PERES WHO MIGHT WELL BE CHOSEN TO REPLACE RABIN AS A CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER IN THE MAY ELECTION. AT A DINNER GIVEN FOR VANCE LAST NIGHT, FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON REEMPHASIZED ISRAEL'S NEED FOR DEFENSIBLE BORDERS, AND VANCE RESTATED AMERICA'S DEEP COMMITMENT TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN

- -
THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

DURING A FULL DAY OF LISTENING, VANCE APPARENTLY HEARD NOTHING THAT WAS REALLY NEW. BUT HE DID HEAR IT FIRST HAND, CLOSE UP, AND WITH FEELING. AS ONE SENIOR ISRAELI

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OFFICIAL PUT IT, TO THEM, IT WAS LIKE GOING BACK TO
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SCHOOL -- MEANING THAT BOTH SIDES WERE GETTING REEDUCATED.
BUT IT'S CLEAR THAT THE AMERICANS AND THE ISRAELIS WILL
HAVE TO DO A LOT MORE TALKING WITH EACH OTHER BEFORE
ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS ARE RESUMED.

TODAY, VANCE FLEW ON TO CAIRO TO CONFER WITH EGYPTIAN
PRESIDENT SADAT, AND TO FIND OUT JUST HOW WIDE A GAP
THERE IS BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND ARAB POSITIONS ON HOW
TO GO ABOUT RESUME THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE AND WHEN.
HE'LL ALSO INVITE SADAT TO GO TO WASHINGTON TO MEET
PRESIDENT CARTER.

BERNARD KALB, CBS RADIO, FROM CAIRO

KALB: HENRY KISSINGER USED TO GET THE TRADITIONAL ARAB
EMBRACE WHEN HE STEPPED OF THE PLANE IN CAIRO. CYRUS
VANCE DID NOT. VANCE IS A NEWCOMER TO EGYPT; KISSINGER
WAS 'MY FRIEND HENRY' TO PRESIDENT SADAT. BUT THE WARM
HANDSHAKE EXTENDED BY FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI TO VANCE ON
HIS ARRIVAL HERE FROM ISRAEL SYMBOLIZED THE IMPORTANCE
THE EGYPTIANS HAVE ATTACHED TO THE SECRETARY'S VISIT.
SADAT AND FAHMI ARE EAGER TO GIVE VANCE A ONE-DAY CRAM
COURSE ON THE WAY EGYPT SEES THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE,
AND HOW IT MIGHT BE RESOLVED, SIMPLY PUT, THROUGH THE
APPLICATION OF US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. SADAT HAS SAID HE
CANNOT FORSEE ANY MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCE WITHOUT THE PLO.
BUT HE'S ALSO INDICATED THAT A NEW PALESTINIAN ENTITY, AS
HE PUT IT, MIGHT REPRESENT THE PALESTINIANS. THIS HAS
STRUCK SOME OBSERVERS AS A WAY OF MEETING US-ISRAELI
OBJECTIONS TO THE PLO AT A PEACE CONFERENCE.

SINCE KISSINGER'S VISITS HERE, THE STATURE OF PRESIDENT
SADAT HAS BEEN SHARPLY UNDERCUT BY RIOTING LAST MONTH
AGAINST HIS GOVERNMENT'S AUSTERITY MEASURES.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE036658
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/PRS: JMORDWAY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770057-0725
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197702100/baaaevha.tel
Line Count: 643
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 12
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3233899
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, THURSDAY MORNING, FEB 17 NO. 11 NEWSPAPERS
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f84d1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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